



## SLIDABLE ROOM ASSEMBLY

[0001] This application is a continuation of co-pending prior application serial no. 10/002,032, now U.S. Patent No. 6,623,066, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending prior application serial no. 09/897,762, filed July 2, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,644,719, which is a continuation of co-pending prior application serial no. 09/296,357, filed April 22, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,254,171. Application serial nos. 10/002,032, 09/897,762 and 09/296,357 are hereby incorporated by reference.

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to a slidable room assembly, particularly to a slidable room assembly for a vehicle having a slideout room or compartment that is retracted when the vehicle is in motion and may be extended to afford more room when the vehicle is parked. More particularly, this invention relates to a slidable room assembly that includes an improved mechanism for reciprocation of the slideout unit relative to the vehicle.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Recreation vehicles including motor homes, fifth wheel trailers and travel trailers may be provided with an extendable slideout unit for increasing the vehicle's living space. This slideout unit may be extended for use when the vehicle is parked and is retracted in a telescoping manner when the vehicle is to be moved.

[0004] Prior vehicle slideout installations that include an extension/retraction system that relies on screws or a pinion for effecting telescoping movement of the slideout unit relative to the vehicle are known. Screws, in particular, must be short for practical reasons, including the tendency of a longer screw to deflect so that the axis of the screw is not absolutely straight. This, of course, greatly impairs operability of the screw. Pinions must also be comparatively short for practical reasons, including excessive weight in a pinion of greater length. Since the amplitude of movement of the slideout room or compartment can be no greater than the length of the screw